



Kane County School District

Kanab Middle School
690 S. Cowboy Way
Kanab, UT 84741

Utah CCGP- Closing the Gap Results Report 2006-07

Target Group: academically low-performing students
Target Group selection is based upon: self-selection in response to performance survey.

Abstract

In this study, most of the students at Kanab Middle School were surveyed to determine each student's opinion about whether they have had personal academic and behavioral improvement since the beginning of the school year. Middle school students often believe that they do not need to strive for excellence in the middle grades because it will not keep them from moving on to high school. The Performance Survey asked for a judgment of their own performance compared to the beginning of the year. Students answered questions which helped determine motivation and reasons for change. The students who are performing much better were selected to participate in a motivational video, and the younger students were asked to form a "consulting club," to assist struggling students next year. The data was gathered from the surveys and evaluated, and results displayed graphically.

Project Description

Introduction

- The desired result for student learning would be that under-performing students would become less prone to discouragement.
- Rather than give up, there would be resources that they could tap for motivation and ideas to improve chances for success.
- Fewer students will fail repeatedly

Participants

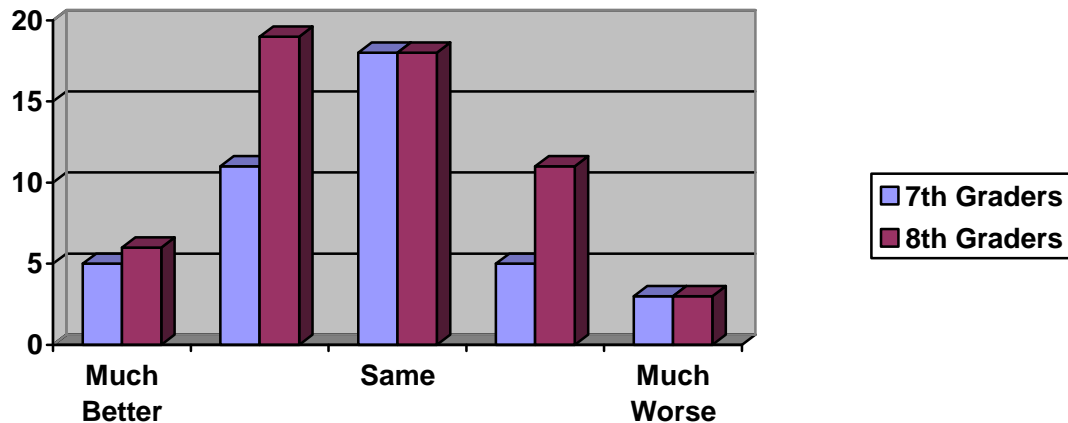
- Most current Kanab Middle School students participated in the survey, excluding only absent students. This included 44 seventh graders and 57 eight-graders.
- Affected students will include current students as well as incoming students.
- The targeted group are the academically-underachieving students.

Method

- Classroom surveys
- Videotaped interviews of selected students
- Beginning April 2007, ending with evaluative survey in May 2008
- Counselor Jeanine Johnson, administering and evaluating

- Evaluation will consist of videotape, comparative data evaluation in April 2007 and again in May 2008, effectiveness of consulting club and videotaped interviews when used to assist student performance.

Results



Discussion

The data gathered from the surveys in this project indicate that many students who fail at the beginning of the school year continue to fail repeatedly throughout the year. Although the seventh graders rated themselves as doing the same, academically, as the beginning of the year, and the eight graders mostly rated themselves as doing somewhat better, there were enough who rated themselves as doing somewhat worse, or much worse, that certainly warrant an intervention.

The intervention in this case is the creation of a motivational video. Students who were identified as doing much better became the interviewed subjects. These students were asked four main questions: *How are your grades compared to last year?*; *what motivated you to make the changes?*; *how did things change for you at home/school when these changes were made?*; and *what advice would you give a student who is struggling in school?*

It is believed and hoped that the students who participated in the making of the video will be more determined to continue these improved habits, and that those who watch the video will be inspired to improve.

The seventh graders were asked to participate in a "consulting club" to assist students next year who need advice and motivation from their peers.